



# Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire

July 2006 Newsletter  
*Keeping You Informed!*

Please send inquiries or feedback to Joan Ascheim:  
[IPHNH@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:IPHNH@dhhs.state.nh.us)

*A Statewide Effort organized by  
the New Hampshire Department  
of Health and Human Services,  
Division of Public Health Services*

## **About Our Newsletter**

**Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire!** Our newsletter is intended to keep stakeholders informed on key public health planning and performance improvement initiatives in New Hampshire

*PHIAP Meetings are generally  
held on the Third Thursdays  
of the month  
9:00 am – 12 noon*

Next Meeting:  
September 21, 2006  
At the  
Local Government Center,  
Concord, NH

## **News from the Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee (PHIAP)**

Chaired by James Squires, MD, President of the Endowment for Health and Mary Ann Cooney, Director of the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), this committee met for the first time on February 3, 2006 to launch a performance improvement plan based on the results of the October 2005 New Hampshire assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS).

## **Our June 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

This was a vitally important meeting for PHIAP members as they used all the information reviewed at previous meetings to set strategic priorities to serve as the basis of a public health improvement plan and formation of work groups.

The six strategic priorities endorsed by PHIAP were:

- 1) Inform, educate and empower people about health issues**
- 2) Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems**
  - These two groups will be asked to integrate improved use of technology into their strategic action plans.
- 3) Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve health problems**
- 4) Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts**
  - This group will address the need for a state leadership focus such as the advisory committee and an ongoing state health improvement planning process.
- 5) Communication Plan**
  - This group will have representation of all other groups on it.
- 6) Workforce Development**
  - This group will be charged with developing a workforce development plan

## **Developing a Public Health Vision**

During the summer a group of DPHS staff and PHIAP members will work with consultants to develop a vision for DPHS. Articulating a clear vision for the future will be an integral part of the public health performance improvement plan.

## Future Meetings

October 19  
November 16  
December 21

[Meeting locations, minutes  
and agendas will be posted  
on the DHHS website](#)

### ***September Summit- Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire Save the Date***

#### **Report Available:**

<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/DPHS/LIBRARY/Data-Statistical+Report/publichealthassessment.htm>

On September 26, 2006 DPHS and PHIAP will convene public health stakeholders from around the state to review the results of New Hampshire's assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards, to share the vision for DPHS and the strategic priorities identified by PHIAP. Six work groups will be launched and begin the process of developing action plans for their assigned strategic priorities.

The summit will take place at the Wayfarer Inn in Bedford, New Hampshire.

The keynote speaker for the summit will be Hugh Tilson, MD, DrPH, Senior Advisor to the Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina. Dr. Tilson has a long, varied, and distinguished career in public health spanning 35 years. He served on the original committee, which authored the Institute of Medicine (IOM) The Future of Public Health report, and as a liaison from the IOM Board on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention to the committee that authored the subsequent publication The Future of Public Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We feel privileged to have Dr. Tilson lead off this crucial meeting.

#### ***Want to Join a Work Group?***

If you want to participate on a work group addressing one of the six priorities, send an e-mail to: [IPHNH@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:IPHNH@dhhs.state.nh.us) Please indicate which group you would like to join.

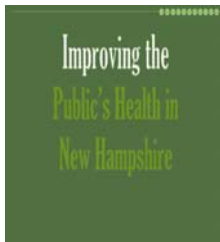
Work groups will meet 3-4 times between October and December 2006 to develop action plans for their strategic priorities.

#### ***Visit Our Website!!!!***

*Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire* has a website at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DPHS/iphnh.htm> The website provides periodic updates on planning and performance improvement efforts and links to related initiatives past and present. Relevant reports, presentations, resources, and tools will be available through the web page. Visit us and bookmark it so you can keep abreast of developments.

#### ***Improving the Public's Health in NH Report– June 2005 – Hard copies still available***

Due to a third reprinting, this report is now available, at no cost, in a bound hard copy. The report, which looks at 11 measures such as youth smoking and diabetes management, demonstrates DPHS' adoption of a performance management model that includes analyzing data in selected programs and populations and then using the information to make changes to improve services and outcomes. The report also showcases the important work carried out by partners in the public health system to improve the health of New Hampshire citizens, as well as the health and economic consequences of not meeting these performance measures.



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# Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire

May 2006 Newsletter  
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## **We Have a New Website!!!!**

*Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire* now has a website at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DPHS/ipnhn.htm> The website will provide periodic updates on planning and performance improvement efforts and links to related initiatives past and present. Relevant reports, presentations, resources, and tools will be available through the web site. Visit us and bookmark it so you can keep abreast of developments.

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## **News from the Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee (PHIAP)**

Co-chaired by James Squires, MD, President of the Endowment for Health and Mary Ann Cooney, Director of the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), this committee met for the first time on February 3, 2006 to launch a performance improvement plan based on the results of the October 2005 New Hampshire assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS).

Meetings are open to the public but only advisory committee members have voting privileges. PHIAP committee members have been gathering and analyzing various public health assessments and information to set priorities for a public health improvement initiatives. [Minutes of past meetings](#) are available on our web site. Most recent meetings are described below.

*PHIAP Advisory Committee  
Meetings are generally held  
on the 3rd Thursdays of the  
month  
9:00 am – 12 noon*

Next Meeting:  
**June 15<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30 am – 2:30 pm  
at the  
Local Government Center,  
Concord, NH

Future Meetings  
September 21  
October 19  
November 16  
December 21

[Meeting locations, minutes  
and agendas will be posted  
on the DHHS website](#)

### ***Third Meeting April 20, 2006***

#### **Report Available:**

The executive summary and full report, [New Hampshire's Assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards: Report 2006](#) describes the process and results of the New Hampshire Assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards conducted on October 11 and 12, 2005.

Liza Corso and Teresa Daub, of the Centers for Disease Control and Tiffany Hinton, National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) joined the meeting via webcast and teleconferencing technology and presented on the National Public Health Performance Standards Governance Tool. The tool is used mostly by governing bodies, generally local boards of health. It assists local boards of health or governing bodies to assess their capacity to support local public health in the areas of legal authority, evaluation, collaboration, policy development and resources.

Kate Kokko, Director of the Southern Strafford County Community Health Network presented a summary of how various Public Health Networks conducted the assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards Assessment using the local instrument. She summarized how various networks moved from the assessment process through the prioritization process.

Both presentations will be made available on the IPHNNH web site.

### ***Fourth Meeting May 18, 2006 – \*\*Minutes Pending***

John Martin, attorney for the Division of Public Health Services, presented an overview of the public health laws in New Hampshire.

Dottie Bazos of the Community Health Institute presented preliminary findings of a state health profile which will be published in the near future.

### ***Our June 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting***

Committee members will examine the results of the New Hampshire Assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards and all the information presented to the committee to date to set strategic public health priorities at the June meeting.



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# Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire

April 2006 Newsletter  
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**Next Meeting:**  
**April 20<sup>th</sup>**

at the  
Local Government Center,  
Concord, NH

**Future Meetings**

May 18  
June 15 (if needed)  
September 21  
October 19  
November 16  
December 21

Meeting locations and  
agendas will be posted on the  
DHHS website when it is up  
and running.

**E-mail Attachments:**

PHIAP Member List  
Meeting minutes:  
02/2006  
03/2006

**Report Available:**

The executive summary and  
full report, New Hampshire's  
Assessment of the National  
Public Health Performance  
Standards: Report 2006  
describes the process and  
results of the New Hampshire  
Assessment of the National  
Public Health Performance  
Standards conducted on  
October 11 and 12, 2005. The  
report is available at  
[http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/  
DHHS/DPHS/LIBRARY/Data-  
Statistical+Report/publichealth  
assessment.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/DPHS/LIBRARY/Data-Statistical+Report/publichealthassessment.htm).

**Presentation:**

**Moving from Assessment to  
Planning and Improvement**

On March 28, 2006 at UNH  
Manchester, Joan Ascheim,  
Bureau Chief for the Bureau  
of Policy and Performance  
Management for the NH  
DPHS shared the process for  
and result from the  
performance standards  
assessment. The slides are  
available as an attachment.

*About Our Newsletter*

Welcome to our inaugural monthly newsletter, ***Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire!*** We hope you find it a useful way to stay informed on key public health planning and performance improvement initiatives. In October 2005, at a meeting held to assess New Hampshire's public health performance, participants told us they wanted to stay informed about the planning process in particular and public health initiatives and issues more broadly. We are starting the newsletter with information on the planning process but may broaden its scope over time. At this time we are developing our website. Until it is complete we are sending attachments in the e-mail to which this newsletter was attached. We will notify you when the webpage is functioning.

*The Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee (PHIAP)*

Chaired by James Squires, MD, President of the Endowment for Health and Mary Ann Cooney, Director of the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), this committee met for the first time on February 3, 2006 to launch a performance improvement plan based on the results of the October 2005 New Hampshire assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS).

Meetings are open to the public but only advisory committee members have voting privileges.

*First Meeting February 3, 2006:*

The PHIAP reviewed the results of the New Hampshire assessment of the NPHPS conducted on October 11 and 12, 2005 and established steps for moving forward. Workgroups will be established in the summer of 2006 to develop action plans based on priorities set by the PHIAP. For more details see the minutes.

*Second Meeting March 23, 2006*

PHIAP members heard a presentation from Jonathan Stewart of the Community Health Institute on the accomplishments of *Turning Point*, a previous New Hampshire public health planning initiative. PHIAP members are considering this and other public health information before setting priorities relative to the performance standards assessment results. For more details see the minutes.